



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

January 15, 2019

Dear Companions in Christ,

In late November at the Racial Reconciliation Summit called by our Bishops, we agreed to develop liturgical resources for use on the day of Racial Reconciliation and Justice designated by the Episcopal Church in Connecticut's 2018 Convention. This day will soon be upon us: Sunday, February 10, 2019.

Below you will find liturgical resources for an entire worship service, with just a few choices. These resources are drawn from the *Book of Common Prayer*, the *Hymnal 1982*, LEVAS, *Holy Women*, *Holy Men*, *Enriching our Worship*, and materials for racial reconciliation generated by the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. We offer these resources in the certain conviction that this work and witness will not be a one and done Sunday, but rather, hopefully, the start and/or continuation of a longer, deeper, and wider ongoing and faith-filled conversation across the parishes and people of the ECCT.

Our prayer is that we may listen more than we speak. We pray our words and deeds, our love and faith, and our presence and passion will reveal ourselves to be the beloved community to which Jesus invites each one of us. We pray that we become channels of the healing grace of our Lord.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Virginia Army
The Rev. April Alford-Harkey
The Rev. Diane Peterson
The Rev. Bevan Stanley

February 10, 2019: Epiphany 5, Year C

The Lectionary Readings for Epiphany 5, Year C

- [Isaiah 6:1-8, \[9-13\]](#)
- [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)
- [Luke 5:1-11](#)
- [Psalm 138](#)

Collect of the Day: *We suggest the use of this collect:*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen. (BCP p. 815)*

OR one of the following collects from *Holy Women, Holy Men*:

For Absalom Jones

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

For Martin Luther King, Jr.

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

For Jonathan Daniels

O God of justice and compassion, you put down the mighty from their place, and lift up the poor and the afflicted: We give you thanks for the faithful witness of Jonathan Myrick Daniels, who, in the midst of injustice and violence, risked and gave his life for another; and we pray that we, following his example, may make no peace with oppression; through Jesus Christ the just one, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Confession

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Many: Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:

You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.

We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family.

We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others.

We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.

We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.

Forgive us, Holy God. Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.

Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. *Amen.*

OR

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves,

and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will.

Amen.

Use either the following **Prayers of the People** and one of the **Confessions OR The Litany of Repentance**.

Prayers of the People for Epiphany

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
Isaiah 60:1

Deacon or other leader

You who by the leading of a star, guided the Magi to the brightness of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, lead us to the light of revelation, that we may value and honor the varied gifts of our sisters and brothers.

Christ, be our light: ***Shine in our hearts.***

You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation, dispel the arrogance, animosity, and anger that shatter the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth.

Christ, be our light: ***Shine in our hearts.***

You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise, set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision.

Christ, be our light: ***Shine in our hearts.***

You who patterned the stars and called the sun into being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos, pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender, and ethnicity may be recreated into one common humanity.

Christ, be our light: ***Shine in our hearts.***

You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least, shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful, and the suffering [especially _____]. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

Christ, be our light: ***Shine in our hearts.***

You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity those who have died, welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife [especially _____]. Shine the light of hope.

Christ, be our light: ***Shine in our hearts.***

You who delight in the complexity and splendor of creation, help us to delight in the diversity of this earth, our island home. Inspire your people to care for all you have made.

Christ, be our light: ***Shine in our hearts.***

Presider: May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope. *Amen.*

Litany of Repentance

Dear people of God, our history is marred by oppression, by the enslavement of those who differ from us, and by the forces of racism that attack human dignity. The sin of racism is woven into our lives and our cultures, in small and great ways, in things done and things left undone.

As followers of Christ, we reject racism and the oppression of other human beings. In building Christ's beloved community, we must strive to love all people, respect all people, and work for the good of all people. We must stand alongside God's children of every race, language, and culture, and work together as agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

In the assurance of our forgiveness, let us kneel before God and humbly confess our sins: our participation in racism, our privilege based on racism, and our perpetuation of racism. *Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

God the Father, you freed your people from slavery in Egypt, yet the legacy of slavery deforms our lives today. ***Have mercy on us.***

God the Son, you prayed that all would be united in your love and service, yet the divisions among us rend your body. ***Have mercy on us.***

God the Holy Spirit, you inspire us to live peaceably with all, yet the stain of genocide and internment mars our striving for justice. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have harmed one another and the earth through negligence, greed, and self-interest. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have failed to condemn discrimination that leads to unrest. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have decried violence, while overlooking inequity and frustration from which it rises. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have practiced injustice for economic gain and have oppressed others to make a false peace. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have sought comfort in advantage for ourselves at the cost of injustice for others. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have welcomed solace over conflict and ignored the cries of those harmed by our comfort. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have grasped for this world's goods, and been arrogant toward those who have little. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have not shared the good things we have been given, and blamed the poor for their poverty. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have been fearful and distrustful of those who are different from us. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have divided ourselves from others, and refused to listen to or believe their experience. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have been indifferent to the pain and suffering of our sisters and brothers. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have held in contempt those who need our help, and not loved them with our whole hearts. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have been self-satisfied in our privilege, and denied our oppression of others. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have preferred order over justice, and isolation over the struggle for peace. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have quietly held good intentions, and kept silent the message of reconciliation. ***Have mercy on us.***

We have failed to act with courage for the sake of love. ***Have mercy on us.***

Lord have mercy. ***Christ have mercy.*** Lord have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ's Beloved Community in our own day. *Amen.*

We suggest choosing among the following hymns:

- 671 Amazing Grace (remembering the history of how this hymn was written)
- 607 O God of Every Nation
- 693 Just As I am
- 594 God of Grace and God of Glory
- LEVAS 143 Wade in the Water
- LEVAS 137 Just As I Am
- Fraction Anthem S171

Commissioning for the Ministry of Justice and Reconciliation

Dear People of God, we stand in the shadow of the prophets crying out for justice and peace. God calls us to be a people of reconciliation, serving a world in need. Courageous women and men have taken the risk of standing up and speaking out for the least and the lowest. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love, moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another. We are all called to the work and ministry of social justice and reconciliation.

Presider Will you persevere in prayer and fellowship?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Presider Will you proclaim the good news of reconciliation in both word and deed?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Presider Will you strive to see Christ in all persons, both with whom you agree and disagree?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Presider Will you seek to mend what is broken by human sin and greed?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Presider Will you work toward dismantling the sin of abuse of power?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

The Presider concludes

In the name of God and of this Church, I commission you to stand up, speak out and live into the reign of Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

We recommend the use of Eucharistic Prayer 1 from *Enriching Our Worship 1*

Eucharistic Prayer 1

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God,
 source of life and fountain of mercy.

The following Preface may be used at any time.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

In place of the preceding, a Proper Preface from the Book of Common Prayer may be used.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

Celebrant and People Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your

promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. *Amen.*